

**DEPARTMENT HEAD MONTHLY REPORTS TO THE TOWN MANAGER
SEPTEMBER, 2006**

Below, please find a compilation of reports from each Town Department

ASSESSOR: Submitted by David Utakis

As this report is being written on Oct. 2, 2006 the Assessors office is still receiving Chapter 61, 61A and 61B applications which will be used in farm and recreational property valuations in FY2008. We get about 100 applications annually. As the month of September was ending Saturday, Town Hall staff kicked off a preview of the FY2008 budget process and looked forward five years to FY2012.

This office expects the new growth forecast for FY2007 to hold true at \$620,425 or more, but future estimates have to consider the recent market declines. Construction has slowed considerable due to a 30% decline in single family homes. I estimate that new growth in FY2008 will be somewhere around \$435,000 in FY2008. I'll happily adjust that figure upward if trends change. I would expect a new growth rebound to \$500,000 in FY2009 and up to a 10% increase for the next few years.

We don't expect any other major commercial or industrial new construction projects to give new growth a push in the near future. Most of the new growth from our Tax Incentive Financing (TIF) projects will have been realized by the end of FY2007 with much smaller amounts trickling in over the next few years. A report on the TIF projects and their projected tax benefit will be prepared after the revaluation project is done.

Our focus in September was to continue work on the revaluation process and do our normal preparations for tax rate setting. Those preparations include finalizing Personal Property account values and data entry. As reported last month, the personal property revaluation is better than 95% complete. The Commercial and Industrial part of the revaluation is 94% complete. The Residential portion of the revaluation, which represents 89% of the property in town, is probably about 50% complete.

The residential part was partially held up because of the lack of report writing capability in the CAMA system used to manage the property values. We have been waiting for the Department of Revenue (DOR) to update our system with this capability for some time. I expect a visit from a DOR representative to offer us some updates on Oct 10. Sometime within a week or two after that, I expect a meeting with our DOR revaluation representative to review our reports. The reports are extremely detailed depicting how sales trends from 2005 affect the valuation of property for FY2007. Properties must be valued at full and fair market value as of Jan. 1, 2006 in order to be certified by the state. We have to slice and dice our numbers in various ways to prove that the valuations proposed are appropriate.

With the exception of one Worcester County Assessor Association training on Oct. 4 and a few final property inspections, I will be devoting the next three weeks solely to the revaluation project. Our values must be state certified before we can set a tax rate.

The annual DOR sponsored "What's New in Municipal Law" seminar held Sept. 29 in West Springfield outlined 22 pieces of legislation. Among those were laws dealing with senior tax relief, veteran's exemptions, community preservation funds, and tax increment financing exemptions.

Senior tax relief laws included an amendment which allows towns to reduce the interest below the current 8% interest charge for seniors who opt to and qualify for real estate tax deferrals. Another law amends the senior Circuit Breaker senior income tax credit. The law provides for statutory base income and assessed valuation thresholds. The amendment allows the domicile valuation to increase from a maximum of \$400,000 to \$600,000 to be adjusted annually according to statewide averages.

Other legislation allows by local option approved by a referendum vote, a replacement of the current chapter 41C age 70 and older property tax exemption. The exemption is 5% of the average assessed value of residential parcels in town. It removes the asset limits currently in place and ties the income limits to the senior circuit breaker state income tax limit. Once approved town meeting could raise the exemption up to 20% of assessed property value and reduce eligibility to age 65 and residency requirements to five years. The impact of this change will have to be reviewed thoroughly before any proposal is made to voters at the spring election. The state will not reimburse the town any more than it already does for senior exemptions. The cost to taxpayers could be significant in terms of cost to administer (possibly more assessor staff) and in the potential for a very large increase in non-reimbursable exemptions and the overall potential increase in the maximum amount exempted.

A number of veteran exemption changes were reviewed including increases in the amounts available to veterans by about 40%. The increases are fully reimbursable by the state and are supposed to take effect in FY2008. There is other legislation pending that may alter the effective date. The law also calls for expansion of Clause 22D to surviving spouses to include the National Guard and increases the benefit to the spouse to full exemption of property taxes for five years from the date of a service persons death in a combat zone with the exemption capped at \$2,500 in years thereafter. Another exemption change allows all disable veterans with a disabled veteran's license plate to be eligible for an excise tax exemption. Previously, only veterans with certain defined disabilities qualified.

Another local option law change allows the town meeting to adopt chapter 59, Section 5L which allows Massachusetts National Guardsmen and reservists deployed outside the state to defer paying their taxes without interest or penalty until 180 after their service. We have a town meeting article in place for the November warrant regarding this.

BOARD OF HEALTH: Submitted by Chairman Susan Smith

The following is a summary of Board of Health activities from September 6, 2006 to September 29, 2006.

Food inspections – 17	Food re-inspections – 12	Housing re-inspections – 3
Court visits – 4		

The Health Agent worked a total of 80 hours in the month of September.

The Board of Health office completed the following by e-mail, phone and walk-in:

Calls for service – 75	Request for copies – 14	Animal complaints – 2
Phone calls – 106	Walk-ins – 38	

Meetings held 2, September 7, 21.

Relevant actions:

September 12, 2 ½ hours, Pandemic Planning Mtg- VNA

September 15, completed ICS 700 to comply with NIMS training requirements

September 20, 4 ½ hours, Alternative Technologies Septic Seminar, Devens (Tim and I)

September 25, 6 hours, Foundations for Public Health Practice, UMass Amherst (all 3 Board members)

September 29, 2 hours, attended meeting in Millville with Millville BOH and DEP re: Kempton Rd (Cay Den Herder and Denise Delannoy)

September 30, 1 hour Budget meeting, UPD

BUILDING DEPARTMENT: Submitted by Nick Gazerro

During the month of September, the upper town hall has been completed. The school administration has been relocated from the Mendon St location to the upper Town Hall. The same zoning issues have surfaced and have taken up a lot of time. There seem to be a rise in the walk-ins with numerous questions. Calls are still very busy approximately 150-200 weekly.

For the month September the number of permits issued and the fee collected is as follows:

Plumbing	-	20 permits issued	Fee's Collected	\$ 2,495.00
Gas	-	22 permits issued	Fee's Collected	\$ 1,045.00
Electric	-	27 permits issued	Fee's Collected:	\$ 2,085.00
Building	-	30 permits issued	Fee's collected:	\$ 11,590.00
			Total:	\$17,215.00

Following are the Building Permits that were issued during the month of September:

2 Garage	1 Deck
1 In ground pool	2 Above ground Pool
2 Porch enclosed	4 Roofs
2 Pellet Stoves	2 Wood Stoves
1 Gas Stove	1 Fireplace insert
2 Replacemnt Windows	5 SFH = 11,916 s.f.
1 Sunroom	4 Assorted Permits

CONSERVATION: Submitted by Rachel Landry

Permitting Activity

The Commission received 5 new applications for work near or within wetlands:

Buma, James – 10 Emilia Drive (Single family home addition)

Uxbridge Apartments, LLC – Taft Hill Manor, off Douglas Street (70 unit assisted living facility)

Rosenhahn, Gary – 149 High Street (septic system repair)

Marinella Development Corp. – 20 Glen Street (construction of a single family home)

Mobil Pipeline Company - West Street (repairs to existing petroleum pipeline)

Permits were issued for 6 projects:

Buma, James – 10 Emilia Drive (Single family home addition)

Rosenhahn, Gary – 149 High Street (septic system repair)

Mobil Pipeline Company - West Street (repairs to existing petroleum pipeline)

New England Power Company – Sutton Street (installation of a 115kV transmission tap line adjacent to existing utility line)

Cnossen Long Term Investment Corp. – Lot 6, Commerce Drive (construction of a 40,000 sq. ft. manufacturing facility – Unilock)

Albee Realty Trust – Albee Road (Mountainview Estates – construction of a subdivision roadway)

The Commission denied 1 project:

Vecchione, Gary – 189 Mendon Road; “The Flats” (Proposed construction within Bordering Land Subject to Flooding. Proposed construction includes paved parking and staging/storage areas, commercial and horticultural buildings, recreational facilities including a baseball field and skating rink, and stormwater management structures.) The project was denied due to failure to meet the performance standards for work in Bordering Land Subject to Flooding (synonymous with 100-year floodplain) associated with Blackstone River.

The Commission issued one enforcement order:

Uxbridge Multi Family, LLC, Ledgemere Country, Phase IVB, Crownshield Avenue

Noncompliance with Order of Conditions # 312-696 resulting in siltation to wetland and intermittent stream / coldwater fishery (brook trout). The permit holder was required to immediately stabilize unvegetated areas causing siltation, retain erosion control specialists to oversee work at the site, submit monthly reports on mitigation requirements, as well as written reports after every rain event, reconstruct stormwater management facilities in compliance with approved plans, and to retain a civil engineer onsite to oversee reconstruction until completed in compliance with plans. The applicant was also required to appear before the Commission at its October 16th meeting to discuss progress.

The Commission issued one Extension permit:

Quarry Hill Development – Autumn Woods, off Aldrich Street (subdivision which includes one roadway crossing of a wetland); extended for three years (maximum allowed extension).

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was issued for an agreement between the Commission and Melody Nydam, of Impact Roads and Construction. The MoU outlines steps to be taken by Ms. Nydam to rectify failure to comply with an Order of Conditions issued for 16 Dunleavy Brook Drive. Ms. Nydam shall allow a 20-foot buffer from wetlands to revert to a natural condition (currently mowed field) at 56 Dunleavy Brook Drive. Upon successful restoration, the Commission shall issue a Certificate of Compliance for 16 Dunleavy Brook Drive.

Open Space Management

Pout Pond

A log and plank boardwalk crossing has been completed by Dan Kramer, Eagle Scout candidate. The crossing in both appearance and construction is in keeping with the objectives of conservation land management; allowing safe pedestrian travel for hikers while preserving a natural landscape.

A trash can requested by other Town staff was placed at the beach area. The request to place a trash can at Pout Pond was not submitted to or approved by the Commission. The trash can is regularly

emptied by DPW. Previously, the Commission advocated a “carry out what you carry in” approach as well as encouraging stewardship of the land by Uxbridge citizens, which was largely successful. Littering is an issue on public lands regardless of the presence of trash cans. Trash cans rarely ameliorate a littering problem as individuals likely to litter will do so regardless of the presence of trash cans. Trash cans often encourage litter (if not regularly emptied) as well as attracting scavengers (rats, raccoons, feral cats, etc). In addition, trash cans can be an invitation for inappropriate dumping. Already computer monitors have been dumped in the trash can at Pout Pond. This agent advocates for a return to the “carry out what you carry in” approach to litter management at Pout Pond until and unless regular staffing is in place for the swim area; through the Recreation Commission or Parks and Recreation Department. Trash cans are a convenience for visitors, but are not necessarily a solution to littering. It is important to remember that Pout Pond is first and foremost a conservation land which the Conservation Commission holds for that purpose. By law, the Conservation Commission retains full managerial control of the land and as such, the Commission retains the right to prohibit placement of trash cans on the property. Additionally, the Commission controls the fate of the swim facility located on the Conservation Land. It is critical to interact with the full Commission regarding staff, elected official, or public concerns and desires regarding management of the property.

Other

The Commission held a special meeting on September 25, 2006 to review and comment on the several road acceptance articles for the Fall Annual Town Meeting. The Commission also discussed special project priorities to undertake in the winter, generally, our slowest time for permitting. It was determined that the special project priority shall be compilation of written land use plans for the Pout Pond and Legg Farm conservation areas. A written land use management plan for Pout Pond appears to be critically important at this juncture, given the conflicting uses of the land (ball fields, swim facility) and misunderstandings of managerial jurisdiction and obligations regarding that conservation area. The Commission also discussed its 25-foot setback policy as well as general discussions on possible adoption of a wetlands bylaw. The chair and administrator of the Commission met with the Website Committee to discuss implementation of a Conservation Commission website. Work continues on this endeavor.

COMMUNITY ACCESS TELEVISION: Submitted by Barry Giles

The following is a list of events occurring during the month of September:

School Committee Meeting Equipment: The two remote cameras have been installed in the High School library and are ready for the first meeting in October. Due to a technical error in the installation of the I-net drop, the meeting will not be covered live. I am working with Charter to clear up this issue and will have the second meeting in October ready for live broadcast. I did inform the School Committee of the new equipment and that their meetings will be covered live.

High School Communication Class: The Television Production Class at Uxbridge High School is adding the final touches to their first program of the year. We should have the first show done by the beginning of October. This program will be aired in school during the lunch period and also broadcast to the community on channel 13, the Education Channel. We have also continued coverage of High School sports and plan on covering more school related events.

Community Programming: We continue to receive programming from outside sources to be broadcast on our local access channels. Some of the new programming received in September is: Mass Talk-A program produced by the Mass Access, the Massachusetts chapter of the Alliance for Community Media. This program gives insight to how PEG access television works for communities around Massachusetts.

Training through Adult Education: Registration for a Television Production Class was held during the month of September. Class will begin on the second Wednesday of October.

UCAT Meetings: I have been attending the UCAT Board of Directors meeting to receive input on how to better improve PEG Access television for the Town of Uxbridge. To review their minutes and Policies and Procedures, you can check out their web site at www.ucat.tv.

COUNCIL ON AGING: Submitted by Marsha Petrillo

The Senior Center is pleased to submit the following report for the month of September 2006:

Fuel Assistance

The Uxbridge Senior Center is an official intake site for local income-eligible households seeking help with their fuel bills. The program season for fuel assistance begins in August with the recertification process. Individuals who are currently in the fuel assistance program are required to restate their household information in order to qualify for FY 07. Each recertification takes about 30 minutes to process. We assisted nine individuals with their SMOC recertification in September for a total of 29 recerts to date.

Outreach Report

Our Outreach Coordinator works 15 hours each week and is available on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:00am – 3:00 pm and Thursdays from 8:00 am to 11:00 am.

Office Visits	17	Home Visits	2
Nursing Home Visits	2	Attended Wakes	
SMOC Recerts & info Calls	17	Homebound services	3
Referral Calls & Fact Finding	72	Wellness Checks	24
SHINE	9	Attended SHINE Meeting	9/7

Statistical Data

The following statistics represent the number of individuals using our transportation services, meals on wheels, luncheon attendance and attendance at our various programs:

Van Transportation	284	Medical Transportation	55
Tai Chi	31	Card Games	126
Meals on Wheels Delivered	1,734	Weekend meals delivered	38
Congregate Meals Served	405	Total Meals Served	2,177

Cash Turnovers 9/06	\$1,175.84	Phone calls in & out	417+
Overall Attendance @ Sr. Cntr	545	Walmart	14
Cards sent to elders	14	Healing Mass – Sun. 9/17	10

Mental Health Awareness

The Mental Health Support Group met on Tuesday, September 5th @ 7:00 pm. The group is comprised, on average, of approximately 10 individuals each week. We thank Connie and Jim Dwyer for their dedication and commitment to this group.

Meetings

The director attended the Interagency Meeting at the Police Station on Wednesday, September 6th.

The COA Board met on Tuesday, September 12th. The Uxbridge Elderly Connection met on Tuesday, September 19th.

The Senior Club met on September 13th and September 27th with an average of 30 members in attendance at each meeting.

The director attended a special meeting on Thursday, September 21st held at Tri Valley in Dudley entitled “How to Cope, Care and Create a Good Life” featuring guest speaker Rev. Kathleen Rusnak, Ph.D.

The Uxbridge Taxpayer’s Association held a meeting at the Senior Center on the 13th @ 6:30 pm.

The director attended the Budget Review Meeting at the Police Station on Saturday, September 30th.

Computer Classes

Computer classes resumed the week of the 18th. Microsoft Word is offered on Thursdays from 4-5 pm with Marsha Petrillo, Instructor. E-mail and Internet is offered on Thursdays from 5-6 pm with Grant Fletcher and Joe Bonapace, instructors.

Line Dancing (New)

Line dancing is now offered on Mondays from 3-4 pm at the Center. Sandra Waite, 12 Individuals attended our first class.

Yard Sale

The Senior Center held a yard sale on Saturday, September 9th. We wish to thank all the participants for the gift of their time. We raised \$639.34 which was turned over to the Donations & Gifts account.

Podiatry Clinic

Dr. Biancanamo held his podiatry clinic on Monday September 11th. We served 6 individuals in September from 8:30 am to 10:00 am. Our van provided transportation for 5 individuals.

Special Trips

The Senior Center ran a special trip to a Healing Mass at St. Mary’s on Sunday September 17th.

VNA Blood Pressure Clinic

The VNA of greater Milford held a blood pressure clinic on Tuesday, September 19th from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm. Ten people participated in the clinic.

Lunch n Learn

Steve Miglizzi, of Neighborhood Diabetes conducted a free glucose meter tune-up and free blood sugar level testing. At a special “lunch –n- learn” session at the Center on Wednesday, Sept. 27th. Twenty two individuals attended the special luncheon.

DPW: Submitted by Larry Bombara

WATER

1. SCADA computer operational system installation is progressing
2. Purchase of additional Blackstone well field land is continuing
3. Division is pursuing a grant to offset costs for the DEP water audit and Conservation Plan project
4. Notification is underway for the future “Rosenfeld” well field with the BV Corridor Commission and the National Historic Commission
5. Plans have been submitted to build homes on the “Hutnak” land where the Town had once planned a future well field. Project review should be placed in front of the BOS for possible acquisition
6. Design is continuing on the High Street water tank replacement project with an informational meeting forthcoming with the BOS

WASTEWATER

1. Notification work has begun on the R.O.W. clearing project
2. Plans have been delivered to DEP for approval of the Lime Silo construction project
3. The Division is participating in the Blackstone River water quality monitoring project undertaken by the Upper Blackstone Water Pollution Abatement District and engineers CDM

HIGHWAY

1. Mendon Street (Rt 16) project is continuing with anticipation of having sidewalks and finish asphalt complete from Rt122 to the Blackstone River prior to the end of October. Work will continue as weather permits until November 15th. Bridge railing replacement has been delayed until spring
2. DPW is working with the Public Safety committee to update the sign placement procedure policy.
3. Progress continues on the 25% design of segment #2 of the Blackstone River Bikeway. DPW met with the DCR Commissioner Burrington regarding the Bikeway and walkway at the Rice City Bridges
4. MHD has received the DPW proposal regarding the reconstruction of sidewalks, roadway and drainage for North and South Main Streets and has begun discussion

OTHER

1. DPW is currently reviewing all town owned vehicles with our insurance carrier for proper and adequate coverage

2. Excavation has begun by the DPW to construct the new communications tower for Police, Fire and DPW located at the new water tank off Richardson Street
3. Articles presented for the Fall ATM by the DPW
 - o To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Water Div enterprise fund to Account # 650.450.5302.5.0011 Future well field Account the sum of \$165,000 for permitting and design of the future "Rosenfeld" well field or take any other action relating thereto.
 - o To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Water Div enterprise fund to Account # 650.450.5302.5.0004 Capital Outlay Account the sum of \$29,000 for the purpose of conducting a DEP required water audit and conservation plan and further to allow the DPW to accept any available grants for said purpose or take any other action relating thereto.
 - o To see if the Town will raise and appropriate and to transfer from available funds the sum of \$11,000 to the Storm Water Phase II Account # 001.422.5302.2.0004 for the purpose of implementing the EPA mandated program or take any other action relating thereto.
4. Prepared FY07-FY12 DPW Capital Plan (see 6 pages below)

FINANCE DIRECTOR AND TOWN ACCOUNTANT: Submitted by David Genereux

1. The FY 2006 audit is ongoing. The Auditors will be meeting with the Board of Selectman on Tuesday, October 10, 2006 to present the audit and discuss the management letter. We have already received the FY 2006 Fixed Assets listing.
2. The end-of-year FY 2006 reports have been sent to the Department of Revenue for certification and free cash calculation. We hope to have Free Cash certified shortly.
3. RFP's for health insurance were issued by the Town through its insurance advisor on October 4. We are soliciting quotes from Blue Cross, Tufts, Harvard Pilgrim, MIIA, Fallon and United Healthcare. Quotes are to be returned by October 28, 2006. A meeting will be scheduled shortly with the Insurance Advisory Committee for review.
4. 71 new tax titles were created with the FY 2006 tax taking totaling \$112,395.40
5. All FY 2007 budgets have been inputted into Vadar. We are in process of fine tuning the system and will commence printing monthly accounting reports for all departments shortly. We are currently still adding accounts and working on improvements to the system.
6. We would like to welcome Dustin Saucier, from Uxbridge High School, to the financial team. Dustin will be performing an internship with us through January 2007.
7. Cash Reconciliation: August 2006

Starting Balance	14,299,229.32
Adjustment	179.00
August Receipts:	1,270,627.14
August Warrants:	<u>(4,685,088.55)</u>
Cash Balance	\$10,884,946.91

8. Collections for August:

Motor Vehicle	42,867.55
Personal Property	4,711.34
Real Estate	216,664.36
Tax Title	5,653.80
Interest, Liens & Fees	8,638.94
Total Collected	<u>\$278,535.99</u>

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Submitted by Peter Ostroskey

I am pleased to submit the following activity report for the Fire Department:

INCIDENT REPORT: The Department responded to 130 emergency incidents including 4 fire/explosion incidents, 101 rescue/medical emergencies, 2 hazardous conditions, 1 service call, 4 good intent calls, 15 false alarms and 3 special type/complaint responses. We provided mutual aid to neighboring communities 5 times and received mutual aid on 1 occasion. Our personnel operated at significant incidents including:

- A water emergency at Village Cleaners on North Main Street on September 5, at which the basement was entirely filled with water from a leaking pipe;
- An investigation of smoke in the building at AC tech on Douglas Street on September 26, 2006 – found to be a compressor equipment problem.

The ambulance service evaluated 104 patients, provided care and transported 82 to area hospitals. The transports were to Milford Regional Medical Center (74), UMass – University Campus (4), Landmark Medical – Woonsocket (3) and Worcester Medical City/St. Vincent's (1) and involved advanced life support service on 45 occasions.

FIRE PREVENTION: The Department conducted inspections and issued permits as follows; 20 smoke/carbon monoxide detector inspections were completed, and 11 permits issued for tank truck (3), propane storage (4), and home heating oil storage (4).

Members of the Department met with the Principals and Vice Principals from all schools to review emergency procedures and discuss fire prevention for the upcoming school year. Fire Drills were conducted in all schools after the start of the school year.

TRAINING: Personnel received training and participated in drills on self contained breathing apparatus, positive pressure ventilation, building search and personnel accountability systems. This training was conducted at a house located at 350 Hartford Avenue East made available to us through the Department of Conservation and Recreation. This house will be used for several upcoming drills for Uxbridge and the surrounding communities we train cooperatively with.

Several members completed Incident Command System training through an ICS 200 class offered at Station 1. The training was provided by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency and personnel costs were funded through grants obtained through the Central Massachusetts Homeland Security Council and Massachusetts Department of Public Health. One member completed the next level of training (ICS 300) by attending a three day class in Oxford.

GENERAL: Firefighter/EMT Cheryl Ethier has enrolled in the Paramedic Program at Quinsigamond Community College through the training program offered by the Department. Firefighter/EMT Kevin Feen has completed his course and is in the testing phase of the Paramedic program. Firefighter/EMT Roger Lavallee is continuing through the Paramedic course and will be completing it in January. Firefighter Michael Deluca began the Basic EMT class this month.

The Department welcomes our Uxbridge High School Student Intern Jeff Hutchinson to the program. Jeff is a senior at UHS and has relatives serving in the Fire Service in Metro West. Jeff is fitting in well and has already completed basic Incident Command Training for Firefighters as well as his Department orientation. We are happy to have him with us.

The September 11 Remembrance was well attended and we were pleased to participate. We took that opportunity to dedicate Special Signal 3-4-3 as the official memorial signal for the Department.

Two significant donations were received in the month of September. Ms. Barbara Hough of Chestnut Street donated \$4000.00 to fund upgrades to the breathing air supply system in the station. Ms. Hough has been a strong supporter of the Department and we hope to have a more formal recognition of her contribution when the donated equipment arrives. The Uxbridge Professional Firefighters Association has donated personal protective equipment racks for Station 1. These racks have a value of nearly \$3000.00 and will provide proper storage for the firefighting gear in the station.

On September 16 Department personnel retrieved the hose and equipment that was deployed in March as temporary water supply for the Quaker Village Condominiums on Quaker Highway. Quaker Village was supplied through the temporary connection until necessary work was completed to connect the buildings to the municipal water system. The Uxbridge DPW provided necessary connection for the temporary service at a hydrant on Crownshield Ave.

PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Submitted by Floyd Forman

Spoke with or met with numerous members of the public concerning questions on planning and zoning issues. Spent time with the following projects before the Planning Board:

- **Holbrook Farm Estates:** Attempting to resolve roadway completion on Murphy's Way, so as not to pull the surety and have the Town manage completion of the subdivision. Developer has made progress over the last 30 days with completion of roadway drainage problems.
- **Evergreen Acres:** 84 lot Conservation Design Subdivision off King St. This is the Town's first Conservation Design Subdivision. The Planning Board approved the project in September. The decision has been filed with the Town Clerk.
- **Waucantuck Mill:** Proposed redevelopment of old mill buildings involving cleanup of a brownfield site located along Mendon St. adjacent to West River Rd. and Henry St. The project needs a Special Permit from the Planning Board. A number of department heads and staff from the Army Corps of Engineers met with the project proponent. The Planning Board continued to meet with the proponent for project review under the Town's Special Permit Zoning Bylaw. The project has been continued to the Planning Board's first meeting in October to review traffic issues.

- **Mountain View:** Proposed 7 lot subdivision off Albee Rd. This project may be within the new blasting guidelines voted by the BOH. A draft decision has been written on this project for the Planning Board's review. The Planning Board will likely vote on this project at its first meeting in October.

Other Matters

- **Summerfield/Taft Hill:** Discussed numerous housing and zoning problems concerning this project with Town Counsel.
- **Savers Bank:** Worked with Savers Bank and consultants on traffic issues at the intersection of Routes 16 and 122.
- **Potential 40B Project:** Sat down briefly with attorney and engineer to review a proposal for a small lot on S. Main St initially proposed for business development. Applicant has now proposed a 36 unit 40B project.
- **Development Review Committee:** Worked with Town Manager and other department heads to set up a staff level Development Review Committee to review major projects. Set up system so that all departments interested in receiving plans will get a copy to allow for any comment.
- **Zoning Articles, Town Meeting:** Worked with Town Counsel on zoning articles for Town Meeting.
- **Mall:** Continued to help resolve issues related to commercial development at Routes 16 and 146.
- **BJ's:** Worked with BJ's and Police Dept. to resolve traffic problems associated with BJ's and its carriers. These issues now seem to be resolved.
- **Office Planning:** Continuing to gather quotes on carpentry, furniture, and electrical / phone / cable (internet) work.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Submitted by Scott Freitas

The following is a list of activity for the Uxbridge Police Department for September, 2006:

During this time dispatch received, responded to and/or dispatched 953 calls for service to the Police, Fire or EMS Service. That is 104 less calls than the month of July 2006 yet it is still over 100 more calls than were handled in September of 2005. 13.2% of the calls were Fire/EMS related, which usually also required a police response and 86.8% were strictly police related. This current year we have responded to 8609 calls for service. This is an increase of over 17% compared to last years total. Currently we are still destined to surpass our peak year of 2000 and will have responded to the most calls for service in a year since computer generated data collection started in the early 1990s. We still project to be answering somewhere around 11,500 calls this calendar year.

- 116 Motor vehicle citations were issued, and officers continued to participate in an aggressive driver enforcement grant funded by the Governor's Highway Safety Bureau. The current GHSB wave of patrols went until September 5, 2006.
- 12 Motor Vehicle Accidents were investigated. This is about 33% lower than August. The decrease in collisions over the last two months is encouraging. I believe some of the success is because of the deployment of the radar speed signs in accident prone areas around town.
- 49 Arrests or applications for criminal complaints were made. Arrests have increased this month 57% compared to August.

Although calls for service decreased, citations and arrests were up considerably.

Some special investigative operations were also conducted during this month. On a tragic note, on September 3, 2006 a fight took place outside of Kapi's Pub on Rivulet St. The Uxbridge Police along with the State Police did a cooperative investigation that resulted in charges being filed against a Connecticut resident. Just two days prior to the writing of this report, the victim in that fight died. Charges have been upgraded to murder. This untimely death demonstrates the validity of the decision that was made to conduct a dual investigation in the first place. By Statute, the State Police assigned to the District Attorney's Office have control of all death investigations in Worcester County. The interoperability and cooperation between the two departments were nothing short of outstanding. That is just one example of the efforts that are made day in and day out by the town's law enforcement officers, especially during these tight economic times, reduced manpower periods and escalating demands for police services.

Traffic is still an issue during the ongoing construction of Mendon Street. Patience on the part of the motoring public is and has been appreciated. The traffic patterns will remain a difficult issue as the traffic patterns are apt to change quickly due to the needs of the project on a daily basis.

At this point, things continue to go well with the parking situation at the Good Shepherd School. We will continue to monitor the area during the school year.

Training: Newly appointed Officers Gregory Bach and Benjamin Smoot are still training at the Police Academy in Boylston. Graduation is expected in early January.

- Officer Josiah Morrisette went to a one day firearms legal update training
- Sgt. Peter Emerick and I attended training on Security in the Commonwealth held in Southbridge.

Newly appointed part time police officers Thomas Stockwell and Keith Stratton completed required Firearms training conducted by the department's firearms training officers. They have begun their field training and actually Officer Stratton just completed his and is working with full duties as a part time officer. Part time Officer John Larrabee is in reserve police officer training now and is expected to complete that in December. Janice Neitz is still going through the civil service approval process.

Emergency Management: Sgt. Emerick has continued his hard work relative to Emergency Management planning and NIMS compliance training.

Grants: The grant process for reimbursement of new bullet resistant vests is still on going, new vests have been ordered in early July and we expect them any time.

We have received notification of an award of \$18,024 in State Funded Community Policing monies to assist with many Community Policing activities that are coming up. We are planning a Citizen's Police Academy that will begin this winter.

Through a cooperative effort with the School Department, a Grant was received under the Securing Our Schools initiative of the Department of Justice. The matching monies will be sought at this

November's town meeting and this is not only a great opportunity for the town but is also very timely considering the problems that are happening around the country.

We have continued co-operative meetings with the Juvenile Probation Department and School Department and hope for continued collaboration in dealing with Juvenile Crime.

Display of the Town's newest police cruiser and distribution of the Dangers of Alcohol Abuse flyers took place by Police Department Officers at one of the September car shows at Bangma's Dairy Farm.

Animal Control: The dog officer Responded to at least 27 complaints in the month of July. Joyce Gareri has been testifying at court relative to a vicious dog hearing at the Uxbridge District Court. The Clerk of Courts found in the town's favor. The case has been appealed but we expect positive resolution. Work is still ongoing relative to possibly regionalizing the service. Further meetings are scheduled along with needed administrative action by the communities involved.

I wish to thank the Board of Selectmen and you for your support as police chief and look forward to working with you in the upcoming months.

TOWN CLERK: Submitted by Holly Gallerani

ELECTIONS:

- September Primary: The Primary Election on September 19, 2006 went very well. We had 8,668 voters registered to participate in the Primary election and a total of 1,591 voters cast ballots in the Primary for a turnout result of 18.36%.
- The DPW was gracious enough to offer their assistance in moving the voting materials to and from the High School. All of the Election Workers did a fantastic job with assisting at the polls and even enjoyed the opportunity to have lunch with the school children in the cafeteria.
- Hannaford Supermarkets graciously donated a fruit platter to the election workers and it was greatly appreciated by all.
- The Town Clerk's office also assisted former State Senator Lou Bertonazzi with his request for information regarding voter turnout in the past two local elections. The results of the comparison with the other local towns will be posted in next months report.

VITAL RECORDS:

In the month of September we have recorded with the Secretary of State:

- 19 Birth certificates,
- 7 Marriage licenses
- 2 Death certificates

On the 10th of the month a state report is required recording the number of births, marriages, and deaths that have been processed by the Town Clerk's office.

Twelve couples filed new marriage intentions. The intentions process can be time consuming (may take 1-2 hours to complete) as the forms must be error free.

We issued:

- 35 Certified copies of birth
- 32 Certified copies marriage certificates
- 22 Certified copies of death certificates

All birth, marriage, death and business certificates have to be indexed on a monthly basis.

REQUESTS/CERTIFICATES ISSUED:

- 12 Business certificates applications processed

OTHER ITEMS ISSUED:

- 5 Street listing books sold

TURNOVERS:

FY07 FEES COLLECTED								
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE								
							Grand Total	
FY07	Town	Town Clerk	Dog	Dog	Dog		Total Weekly	Turned
Date	Clerk Fees	Licenses	Licenses	Late Fees	Fines		Turn Over	Over
9/7/06	180.00	75.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		255.00	255.00
9/22/06	270.00	0.00	60.00	10.00	150.00		490.00	745.00
9/28/06	0.00	165.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		165.00	910.00
9/29/06	45.00	60.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		105.00	1015.00

Our office handles the dog licenses as well as processing the money collected for the licenses, late fees and fines by the Animal Control Officer.

Total amount of money turned over to the Treasurer/Collector's office for all fees collected for the month of September was **\$1,015.00**

PUBLIC OUTREACH

With the upcoming General Election on November 7th, our office is sending birthday cards to all of the residents of Uxbridge who reach their 18th birthday prior to the registration deadline of October 18, 2006.

OFFICE RECORDKEEPING:

The Town Clerk's office is the archival repository for the town. Our office is responsible for all 20 day appeals on ZBA decisions, filing Planning Board documents (i.e. Form A), various board/committee minutes, time stamp posting of meetings & agendas. We also display for the public agendas and meeting postings. Individuals can request copies of meeting minutes, agendas and postings through our office.

CUSTOMER SERVICE:

- A total of 326 telephone calls have been received in the month of September.
- Research, which entailed approximately 20 hours
- Genealogy
- Notary services
- Swearing In of committee members, new police officers, public offices
 - Oath of Office for Officer Thomas B. Stockwell who is the most recent addition to the Uxbridge Police Department
 - Issued identification badges to the Plumbing Inspector and his staff

SOLICITED INVOLVEMENT:

Working in cooperation with the By-Law Review and the Zoning Board the Town Clerk's office conducted research to support their efforts to finish the By-Law Codification project. The office also conducted research in cooperation with the Assessor's office for the Senior Work off Program. Early in the month of September the office assisted the Treasurer's office with their Tax taking project by notarizing all of the records necessary to go forward with the project.